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## Celebrating the legacy of Cesar Chavez

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Congressman

Great men and women are always remembered for their achievements. Cesar E.



Chavez, a defender of working people, who profoundly changed U.S. labor laws through his non-violent crusade, is remembered on his birthday, March 31. In San Diego we celebrated Chavez's legacy at Kennedy Park at the Project New Village Tribute to Cesar Chavez.

Cesar E. Chavez, the son of migrant farm workers, dedicated his life to fighting for the human rights and dignity of working families. He spent his childhood going from camp to camp, traveling wherever his parents could find work. It was at this young age that he experienced the long hours and dreadful

working conditions of farm workers in the fields. An American patriot, he served in the United States Navy in World War II and later organized voter registration drives, helping empower disadvantaged communities through political participation. In the early 1960s he broke new ground when he became co-founder and president of the United Farm Workers, the first national association of its kind.

His commitment and passion brought remarkable progress in the area of worker health and safety. His victories include restricting the use of dangerous pesticides, providing basic services such as clean drinking water and sanitary facilities, banning child labor in the fields, winning guarantees of fair wages, and fighting discrimination in employment and the sexual harassment of female workers.

Chavez relied on non-violent tactics during the famous Delano

grape strike. His fasting brought national attention to the plight of farm workers, as did a 340-mile march from Delano to Sacramento in 1966. His life's work inspired a movement and a generation of multi-racial leaders who followed his example of promoting service to others, non-violence, justice, equality, tolerance, and respect for the environment and all humanity. Democrats understand and share Cesar Chavez's principles of opportunity, responsibility and community. Our values call for keeping our commitments by saving Social Security first. Our values call for investing in education for all public school children and strengthening Medicare through a prescription drug program covering all seniors. But the budget that Republicans have put forward fails to create opportunity. The inadequate investment in education they have included would leave many of our children behind.